Joe Bustillos

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Subject: Notes on Final Project

Hello all -

Here are the notes I promised on the Final Project. Feel free to email me individually with questions or to start a thread on the NG.

Final Project Information for EDC633

Your final project will consist of two pieces.

1) A written paper, no more than 8 pages in length, included on a web page. It would be best if this paper were a downloadable PDF file or a downloadable Word file.

2) In addition, the web site should clearly feature information about your workplace that would help us to better understand the culture and community in your setting. This might include pictures or edited video clips. It could also be scanned documents.

3) All references in the information about your workplace should be kept anonymous. In other words, don't give the name of your education institution or company. Make sure that all names used are fictional.

4) Also include on the web site any relevant links that might help us better understand your setting. These links might include references to information on CoPs, scaffolding, or learning theories that relate to what you see in your environment (in other words, the theory connected to your setting).

Think of this case study as a story about your workplace. Your peers are your audience. As the author, your job is to carefully observe your setting and to reflect on it. Your goal is to help us to understand how your workplace functions (or doesn't function) to help those in this environment to learn. To do this we need to understand the culture, the Communities of Practice, the learning processes, and even the scaffolding going on. Tell us about the membership of the CoPs and the artifacts that they create. If the environment is dysfunctional, describe the barriers to learning. Give examples of why the culture does not nurture community.

So how do you document what is happening in your workplace within this story? (Yes, data is important because we want this story to be as tangible to us as possible). Your data can include any of the following:

* Quotes from interviews you conduct
* Field notes from your observations (these might just be Post-It note phrases as mentioned on the NG)
* Video or Photographs
* Scanned images of official documents such as agendas of

teacher meetings, memos from principals or bosses, evidence of collaborative events

Besides conveying to your peers what is happening in your environment, in a way that will help to make it real for all of us who can't come to observe, the purpose of the case study is also to see if you can demonstrate an understanding of learning theories, ZPD, scaffolding, experts and expertise, and Communities of Practice within the context of your setting. This case is part of you using your skills in observation and reflection to move from theory into practice. Hopefully the next step along the way will be what you do in your environment on your ARP. This observation and reflection on the community, culture, and artifacts of your workplace should help you to think more deeply about how your workplace functions. In turn this should provide you with information to use in refining your ARP.

Bottom line, gather everything that you think might tell the story. Take pieces from the ARP journal or other reflective documents you have created. Then begin to sort through all of this and start to weave together the tale with your understanding of how the theories apply in your setting.